

4th

THE Distressed Case

Of the People called

QUAKERS

In the CITY of

BRISTOL,

AND

Their *Inhumane Usage* for their Religious Peaceable Assemblies nakedly Related, and Credibly Certified from the said City, by Persons that were Eye and Ear Witnesses of matters of Fact.

HUMBLY PRESENTED

To the tender Consideration of AUTHORITY, and of all True Protestant Subjects.

Published for prevention of mis-representations, though not by the Sufferers themselves, but by other Hands, from a real commiseration of their distressed condition.

LONDON,

Printed for Benjamin Clark in George-yard in Lombard-street Bookseller, 1682.

30 Junij. 1682.

3 H 7

ప్రాణ ప్రాణర్థాలు

OB: The Pocaté culture

CHRISTIANO

30 VITC 595

INTRODUCTION

From the THE HUMBLE LIFE of
John Wesley, 1740, p. 100.

John, a son of John and Mary, died in 1852, and was buried in the same cemetery.

22. *Streptomyces* nov. *penicillatus* C. Nees in *Bot. Mag.* 1823, p. 151. *Fig. 151.*

shown the Quakers and Witches and the old French King
of England had done the same thing and that was the same time
that the French King had done the same thing and that was the same time
that the French King had done the same thing and that was the same time

A Particular Relation of the several Wrigges of the People called Quakers in the City of Bristol.

WE the King's Protestant Subjects on the behalf of
our selves and the rest of our Friends, re-
spectively called Quakers, Inhabitants of the
City of Bristol, now under severe taxes and daily threats
of Ruin to us and our innocent Families, for our difference
in the Peaceable exercise of our Christian Religion and
Duty towards God, Do Testifie that herein our Peace of
Conscience is concerned; and in for this very cause we re-
der these undeserved Scarcities and destructive Hardships
whatever our Adversaries picture to the contrary,
whose pretences are various. Ode while they preach a
Riot against unpeaceable Meetings, another while a differ-
ent manner of Religious exercise is looked upon as
cave fornication; give them of whom in this land, Bishops, Dr.
how unwarrantable such practice and wrongs are we leave
to all judicious English-spirited judges. The account of our
Grievances followeth. On the Fourteenth of Decem-
ber last, Captain Stratton, Master Watkins, Matthew, John,
Henry Armstrong, John Wyllig, with some other Graves of
the Ward, and George Bubb of the old Boys, and one
our Meeting house of the same Parish called Soldiers Parish,
under pretence of levying a Fine of 1000/ they laid was imposed
on the said Boys the most scandalous man in Ames at the old
Master, did there break the Brass Forman Stools and
Chairs, breaking many of the same place, and hanging
thus broken them and scattered them within little, and per-
son before hand combed and made fair, would want and
lose this work done to day and not make more 2 so trou-
bling the Boys to break the Glass Windows, and tear
them down

down the Galleries and Wainscots, and other things fixed to the Free-hold, breaking into a small Inclosure or Cellar, and making waste and Spoil of the Goods of the Inhabitant thereof; the pieces of these Ruins, they gave much away, soone they haled away by Draw-men (which we call Haulers) the rest committed to the Fire: And not yet contented, went up Stairs into the Chamber of Elizabeth Bath's Widow, 2nd threw down hence into the Meeting-room some of her Household Goods, of which a Bell was by the particular order of Ralph Olive junior, commanded to the Fire, but saved from burning by the Intercession of one present beholding the same.

The mob of Scotland Maruitt, Aylmer and Olive, with the scolded Officers, assailed with the Rabble of ruffe Boys, came waighto the late House, and fell to knocking and tearing of the Posts and Shingles of the ruined Galleries, the Alderman proceeding to go into the Dwelling-houle, he demanded the door to be opened, or Newell himself to open it, being offered no resistance he entered the same, and there he found Elizabeth Bath's Widow, Fenchell, Stillring, deane, Chairs and other emblements of the House, which he had haled down the stairs carried away as said Spoil, and also a Library, two Chests of Goods, and the like to the value of £1000 in the same.

The mob then went into the Chamber of Sir Francis Bacon, and his Friends being there, and breaking into the same, Sir Francis Bacon, and other Officers, too great with the Ruffe Boys, Raine and Diffray, were beaten and drubbed, and saved his life, and them, by the intercession of the Alderman, and the rest of the mob, who entered the Meeting-Room, so they passed out into the Room where the Dwelling-houle was, and they broke down the Closets, and Cupboards, and Wainscot, and Partition of two Rooms, took much of the Glass Windows of the Tenement, shattering all the Glass, and to share which, the mob then went into the good-houle down the side-street, as Fins-Dogs, Shrimps, Fish-bones, Fins, and the Window-leaves and Chamber-boards, &c. They then went through a great Window about 20 Foot down into the Meeting-Room, which they carried away as their spoile.

W. O.

S. A.

Walter

Walter Watkins the Marquis gave away at his pleasure one of the Widows Beds.

The 30th day they made ~~ANNA~~ Sport there, and so
bear down the Partitions and Willows, that the poor
Widow who before had taken Cold by Lodging therein,
also Lamed by reason of the Ruins, going with her Crutch,
being admitted to the House by a Leaf granted to her by her
husband, appointed John Woodman to Inhabit there, to keep
Prestleham, and the tenured.

On New-year's-day at our Meeting-house in Temple-street, the said Sheriff with other Officers, and the Rable of Rude Boys, came there without pretence of any Warrant, and they made Spoil there in like Manner.

Thus far the Spoil upon our Meeting-Houses, which with what the Widow hath Suffered, cannot reasonably be computed to less than 1500. Damage.

On which we further make Note, that our Meeting-House in James Parish, was not only never before Afflicted, nor of value lyable by the Law to find a man in Arms, nor being in value 20*l.* per *Annum*; and our Meeting-House in Temple Street of far less value, and never by them pretended to be Afflicted: And that in the Meeting in James Parish there was a sum the Value of five Pounds in Moveable Goods that they needed not for the Distress break and destroy * the fixed Freehold: They have Committed several of our Friends to Bridewell, taking them in that Street after the Meeting, whilst they have been waiting for their Relations to go home with them.

* 'Twas a gross and unwarrantable act, See the Star 13, Cap. 2, c. 4. Sett. 5. which is for Distress, and not to make Ryots upon Houses, &c.

And further, which is grievous to us, our Goal of Newgate being late and a Noxious Stinking place, not fit for a Prison in such a City, where then of Friends are frequently put, as divots of our Friends late there Imprisoned, who initially pay to the Kings Customs ~~one hundred~~ Pounds yearly: On the 8th instant divers of our Friends were Committed to Bridewell as according to eight of them were then brought to Alderman Olive's Office before the said Alderman and Sir Robert Tollemache, who Committed them to Newgate, by reason that these Friends Accostimado in the Goal, the Keeper coming in late into the Room to receive his Payments, was qualified theron, who committed the same, saying, They had not a Room, and a poor Bed nor Lodging for one man more: However they were notwithstanding Committed eleven and Eleven more also from Bridewell from time to time the former night, so that the small Room being about 10*l.* of Becks they go in by turns, some sitting upon the floor there ly three in a Bed: Before Committing any of us from our Meetings, as Friends of the Peace, as we are Bearers of noруж with their Service, taking up and casting them down, breaking their umbrellas, the Rude Boys of which they call their Adversaries, using uncivil Behaviour to the Women, and rudely tearing their Cloathes, incouraged to throw down the Ruins and Stools before

the Meeting was fully Dispersed, particularly one encouraged by a Constable, threw a small Stool, which Chanc'd to hit one of their own men, they desired to know it was one of their own Party that threw it, and have presented the Meeting for a Riot, hoping to cast the same upon the Meeting.

They have taken within five days above 1000. worth of Goods from seven of our Friends single, suites for themselves, and for them whom they pretend to be poor, that can not pay for themselves, and proceed with their Convictions for Warrants for many hundred Pounds more. They Prosecute us of our Friends on the Statutes made against *Robt. Jenkins*, and those among us (knowing us not free to take any Oath) will the continuall of the Lack of Allegiance to ruine us by a *Præsumptiō* based upon a *Test*.

21 Military attends many poor Families in this City, which
our Friends have Employed, as Weavers and other
Workers in Silk and Wool, and most often Handcraft
Trades, which by reason where their independent upon
any one and to continue them at Work, insomuch
of their are already in Want, and hardly provided with the
necessaries of their Ration.

Although we have been otherwise informed, we
are and still hope to be found walking as whole Chris-
tians, and the King's Peaceable, Protestant Subjects, and
we know our hearts. We have well deserved the King's Par-
son his Government, which we have confidence to ap-
pear before God and Men. Praying that we may under
his Government enjoy a Peaceable and quiet life in all
God's commandments, and may then be glorified in his
abide with us.

From Bann of the 12th
Day of the Month
Year of the
Age of the
Child
and
Year of the
Baptism

notes and visiting him, will be an opportunity of doing good, and of doing it in a way of course, and in a manner that will not be likely to do him any harm.

Postscript.

* Note,
That he
had an
Appeal
for his
Goods
taken ;
then to
be Tryed
but this
preven-
ted.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Besides the foregoing Relation, these Accounts are since given from Bristol in the Month called January 1688.

One Dated the 14th Instant saith, that *Erasmus Dole* had Goods taken from him to the Value of Twenty Pounds; and not only so, but the Oath of Allegiance tendered him in Court, which was a Surprize to him * to Entice him, and bring him into further Sufferings, only sometime of Reprieve was granted him to consider of it, but he Threatened to be further Prosecuted thereon.

Also that *Hannah Marshal*, being at Prayer when the Persecutors came into the Meeting, some others were Fined Twenty Pounds for her; which it conceiveth the Act against Conventicles doth not Warrant.

Another dated the 22nd Instant, Concerning their being so many Thronged in *Newgate*, saith, that in the Summer it may be very dangerous to be so Thronged in this close and Noisome place, especially two Rooms which are filled with Beds, Seven in one, and Nine in the other, and in some Beds three and a Bed; and our poor Friends are pressed into Cocklodges, and way made for some Lights that the night see no Work. It may be more, they must provide another Prison, else we must complain.

John Morris Committed upon the Oath of Allegiance taken from the Meeting, though the oppressive H&M Act was never intended against the *Quakers*.

Griffith Jones of *Stephams*, an Honest Peaceable man, and Inhabitant in *Southwark* near *London*, coming about his Lawful Occasions to *Bristol*, was likewise taken at the Meeting, and the Oath of Allegiance tendered to him, and he Committed to Prison for Refusal, the Bishop was present, and forwarded the Tender of the Oath.

John Hellier the Attorney and his Company were very rude, Tearing several Womens Scarfs, and biding the Boys Tear them. That

Another Account dated the 10th day of the said July
Month 1685, informs, That on the 29th of the same,
there were 28 of our Friends now carried to Prison; 16
whereof to Newgate, and 12 to Bridewell. Some where-
of were Women, as Katherine Lucas, Joan Hely, Eliza-
beth Hartford, Marg. Thomas with several more. None
being then so full that they must have more Prison room,
or else they must lie one another. And that Thomas Robert-
son had the said Oath tendered to him by the Bishop, &c.
And for Conscience sake to Christ, refusing to swear it,
was Committed to Prison.

14. Several of the Officers have signified to our Friends, Observe
that these Sufferings were for laying with Presbyterians
in Election of Parliament men.

2dly. Also another Person of the Artillery Company Observe
told one of our Friends, That their rage was not so much
against us, as against the Presbyterians. And that if
Mr. Penn or Mr. Whitchurch would undertake for the
Quakers ceasing as to Election of Parliament men, there
would be no further Persecution of them.

3dly. Let it be observed that as to the manner of their
Imprisonment, a great number of the said Friends called
Quakers in the City of Bury, new Prisoners were ap-
pointed to their Peacocke Bloody Bury, and so
forced thence to Prison by the Officers and their assistants,
and after sometime detaining in Prison, they were had
before the Mayor and some of the Justices, and Committed
to Prison, on pretence of being in an unlawful
Assembly, and breaking of the Magistrates Peace, when
there was nothing of either Presbyterians or Quakers
the Peace, or to any unlawful Assembly, but any injuries
done to any of the Quakers, which did prov^e against them, or any other lawfull Assembly that could be
legally interpreted to be. But the Justices did not
But only that the Officers did not present any of the
Sheriffs or Constables had command of the Prisoners,
without producing any Legal Warrant for Law or

*Vid. Dalt.
Step.
Lam. Cx.
&c.*

Statute we find noo to Warrant such Proclamation for their wills and pleasures to persons in a Peaceable Possess, and then to make their noo summing thercunto presently a Riot. Whereas it is an evill Fact of Violence, Force and Injury done to others (not the number abstractly) makes a Riot. But our Peaceable Religious Meetings are nothing of this Nature. There's no Fact intended or done by them of the Nature and Species of Riot, there's nothing done *Interrorem*.* Therefore the Officers Proclamation against the Persons Peaceably met to make their Meeting a Riot or breach of the publick Peace, apper. arbitrary and illegal, and their manner of Imprisonments thereupon without any Judicial Examination or Warrant from any Justice of Peace, we presume are irregular and Unwarrantable. We would fain know by what Law or Statute they thus proceed. Any how an easie rate can they make Riots, &c.

* Three Persons met to do an Unlawful Act, and that with Force, is a Riot. But even the Conventicle *doth* allow four to meet besides the Family. Therefore the Fact met above is no Riotous act of another Species. There is no more consistency between Punishing our Peaceable Meetings, both for a Riot and for a Religious Exercise, than it can be truly to say they were Fighting, or in a Hot Fray, whilst on their Knees at Prayer to God. Thus absurdly do their men Charge and punish.

Take one Instance amongst the many Abuses and Rudiments acted against (and done to) the said People at their Meetings. One Maid was (as Account is given) sent by John Hildesley *Brudenell* (as a Rioter) on occasion of giving up a Red Ribay a Bonus the Ear for his Shameful Incivility towards her, in his attempting to pull up her Coats. Presently she must be tryed out again for a Riot, for thus defending her Modesty, and sent to *Brudenell* too. But 'twas well the Justice had more Discretion and Justice than to submit such a Proceed against her on that score. Only they should not suffer such gross Abuses and Detracious Cenages in those Rude Prosecutors to go unpunished. Why are not such Rudel Persons as Tom Wotton, &c. and attempt to pull up their Coats sent to prison? O! Shame, shame, that ever such Sordid Abuses as suffered, even in the dear Comised at reproachful Disborders of Christianity, in a publick

A

A farther Brief and Impartial Relation of the Heads of the Persecution of the People called Quakers in the City of Bristol, from the 6th. 12th. Month called Feb. 1681 unto the 19th first Month called March 1681.

Given in several Accounts, by Persons of Credit in the City of Bristol.

In Bristol the 6th of the 12th Month called Feb. 1681.

John Hellier with several other Constables and workflowe Rude Rable of Boyes, came to the Meeting at the place called the Friends, where after Shouting, Leering and Abusing many in an extraordinary manner, he took an Angleman Robert Gerrish, and brought him among the Women, and bid him Preache, calling him Ruff and Bruar, and the Women Whores, violently driving them out; asked the Women, whether they would let their Old Friend go to Prison, and thrusting him among them, bid him Kill the Women before he were, and to take him to Bridewell. John Tilly threw down an innocent Woman, which hurt her much, so as she was forced to be led home between two, bidding the Boyes, Accuse, Threat and Scare. John Hellier took off an Innocent Boyes Hat, and threw it away, after he had struck him with his Hand, and pull'd him up almost from the Ground by

the Hair of his Head. The Mother of the Child grieved thereat, speaking to him, he pull'd her Hat off and threw it on the Way, and ne'er looked another, and Toke her Skirt. He took hold of another Young Woman, and Pinched her Arms, and when she would hold of his Sould, endeavoured to Tear it, and wrench'd her Hand, as if he
would have kill'd her. The Mother sitting at the March
gate, a Young Woman to kill her, and they sat several
to the end of their Wills and Pleasures, and afterwards
at Night Relased them.

bellis dimicari sed diei adi- ci

88 Dr. Hans M.

The 12th of the 12th Month called Feb. 1681.

At a Meeting in Temple-Street, a Company of Rude Boys coming before the Officers, Threw Dirt upon the Womcns Cloathes and Neckes and a Dirty Man in at the Winnow upon their Heads. Afterwards came Sheriff Knight, John Tilly, Thomas Luggs, Robert Blenkarn Re-
gister, and Edward Brandy, William Hig-
gins, and John Batten, Margaret Thomas, an Ancient Woman, and others, and the said Rude Boys, to the said Officers, and said to them, that they durst not to be afraid of Abates, and that his in mind of some
Violence towards them he had mind to her, which he did
not do, and so the Sheriff took him at Morning the
18 Day of April, the said Rude Man, *James Brandy*,
Aged above 60 Years, Smot him often with his Cane,
and said I throw my Heels, and Bruised him much by
the fall upon his Back, afterwards he beat him to New-
gate, and publickly Boasted the next day of this Vi-
olent Behaviour to the poor Feeble Old man. Also
said he that the said Abuses frequently done by Rude
Boys to the Poor, and this Preschew without Disengagement,
and many committed by him.

He same day in the Afternoon our Friends met again before the Door of their Meeting-House in James Parish, now which is renamed John Hellicar, John Tilly, Thomas Lugg, Edward Brand, Walter Watkins Marshal, and John Patrick Gardner, and Edward Summers Butcher, upon Proclamation made, John Hellicar began his Sc scoffing about the Wooden God, which was a Block our Friends used to stand, and about the Old Fizier, as he called an Antient man Robert Gerrish, the subject of his Laughter. And pitched upon ten men, and put them into the Meeting House, and then dispersed the Women, driving them as though he was driving Cattle; crying 'throw; and being asked whether he made Beasts of them, he Replyed, *That we were worse than Beasts, for Beasts will be driven, but we will none to drive* to the meeting to

Three Women were put into the Meeting Room to the men, and one of them was *Elizabeth Hayes*, who sitting quietly on a Form, *John Parry* came to her and endeavoured to put her away violently, but the rest of the Friends were crying out for her to be left in the Room. He took off her Neck-cloth and her Cloak, and pinched her by the Arm till it was sore, and pulled her away into the Meeting, where they locked Friends for a time, and then discharged all save one, (*viz.*) *Thomas Hayes*, first taking their names, and the said *Thomas Hayes* they sent to *Bridewell* to the other Friends, who were all taken in the Evening, on promise of Appearance next Morning, which they did, and then were discharged upon Bonds of Appearance from Day to Day, whenever the Mayor should require them. And the reason wherefore they were not committed as other, for refusing finding Sureties for good Behaviour (which indeed and sincerely offered by *Eliz. Hayes*, *John Parry* and *Hezekiah Parry*) was the Dismissal of the Mayor concerning the Prison, which he particularly exclaimed against, as an *Unlawful Prison*, and vain for men to be put in, being sum already, and that it

W2S

was presented at Sessions, and that he would Commit no more till they had another Prison; and further that he was not well satisfied concerning the ground of such Commitment, and therefore would forbear till the Town Clerk should return.

Witnesses to the Passages at this Meeting,

Robert Summers.

Thomas Hayes.

Thomas Bayly.

Mary North.

Briget Snead.

Margaret Hale.

Elizabeth Vickpis.

Elizabeth Jaques.

To Sir Thomas Earl Mayor, and the rest
of the Justices of the City of Bristol.

We here present unto you the Complaint of many Oppressed Prisoners in this your Goal of Newgate, for what Cause is not unknown unto you, concerning the grievous Strights for Lodgings, being most of us brought in two Rooms, the one filled with Nine Beds, the other about Thirteen Foot Square with Seven Beds, sometimes there have been Three, sometimes Four in a Bed, whilst others late up: The Sense whereof, together with the necessities for want of convenient Room for Work, that our poor Friends are driven to with the Tulness and Closeness of the Goal in General: which by reason of its Unhealthiness hath been divers times Presented by the Grand Jury. And there being now above Four score Prisoners, puts us upon renewing our Made Complaint unto you, and yet at the same time acknowledging your Compassion in granting an Order of Session for the Enlargement of the Goal, which we might reasonably have expected would have speedily enclued, but contrary thereto, notwithstanding all our endeavours with the Keeper, to the satisfaction of Sheriff Lane, we cannot as yet obtain what you have thought fit

fit to grant us: So unless you are pleased to see your said Order of Sessions effected (which is what we hereby desire of you) we are like to have our Healths and Lives exposed, for want of Reasonable Accommodation, who are

From Newgate Prison the
14. of the 12 Month
1681. where several of
us are much indisposed
and Injured in our
Health.

Henry James.
John Herne.
Richard Reighly.
Hugh Bickham.
John Russe.
Edward Jones.
Edward Dowell.
John Heal.
William Diddicott.
John Sampson.
Joseph Wilcox.
John Philbridge.
Joseph Paskall.
Thomas Arroll.
John Rennet.
George Bennet.
Thomas Widby.
Thomas Window.
James Gaynor.

Your Christian Friends.

Richard Snead.
Edward Erbery.
Richard Vickis.
John Moon.
James Wall.
John Barnes.
Jesse Noble.
Arthur Russel.
John Waters.
Philip Russel.
Clement Oliver.
Joseph Bennet.
John Bulgar.
Paul Moon.
William Taylor.
John Simmons.
William Briggs.
Robert Lux.
Miles David.
John Cowling.
Thomas Robertson.
Thomas Dixon.
Nicholas Taylor.

We whose Names are hereunto Subscribed, do severally Testifie and declare, that on the Fifteenth day of this Instant Month of February, in the Four and Thirtieth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King Charles the Second over England, &c. Anno Domini 1681. The

The Annexed Complaint or Petition was delivered in at the Tolsey of the City of ~~London~~, and publicly Read by Order of Sir Thomas Earl Knight Mayor of the said City, Sir Robert Cann Knight and Barrister, John Lound ~~Esq;~~, John Hicks Esq; Aldermen, &c. of His Majesties Justices of the Peace, of and for the said City and County.

Which said Sir Thomas Earl Mayor, and the said other Justices then present, did in the said Court of Tolsey, openly declare their Dissatisfaction concerning the said Goal, esteeming it as an unfit and an Unhealthy Prison, and of dangerous consequence to the Lives of His Majesties Subjects. And did then not only declare their Willingness to have the same Enlarged, but also require their late Order of Sessions touching the same Goal, to be put in Execution, which Richard Lane Esq; one of the Sheriffs of the said City declared his Readiness to yield Obedience to, being of the same Judgment and Opinion with the said Justices. But was rejected and resisted by Sheriff Knight who is the only Obstracter. Witness our Hands this 13th of February 1681.

John Elifit.
William Weaver.
Henry Weaver.

Andrew Wyke, Jun.
Richard Ridley.
Anthony Reeve.

The 13th of the 12th Month 1681.

THE Certificate of Friends concerning the Goal, delivered by Mary Wall, and Bridget Snead, with Intimation of the Mayor's and Sir Robert Cann's desire of a better Prison.

The Mayor was Dissatisfied with Convictions made, wherein they made all Poor but Four or Five. Whereas those whose Fines were laid upon others were as innocent in Estate. The Mayor is Offended at Sheriff Knight and John Hellier, because he cannot get the Convictions of them though demanded.

And

And he would have all Convictions made above-board, and not in Ale-houses and Taverns. The Mayor also drew up a Protest against signing of that unequal Conviction, and protested against the Goal, as altogether unfit for such men to be put in: And Sir Robert Cann said, If he had a Dog that he Laved, he would not put him in Newgate; and Sheriff Knight should not Un-Mayor the Mayor, nor Un-Alderman him, but keep his place: And the Mayor further said, He would Commit no more till there were better Goals.

A Gain the difference between the Mayor and Sheriff
Knight: The Mayor demands the Convictions, the Sheriff refuses to give them; the Mayor caused an Order of Court to be entered of the Demand and Reimbal.

Verdicts have arrived, and the trial is now in hand
 to ascertain the guilt or innocence of the accused. The trial is to be held in the Assize Court at the Old Bailey, on the 25th of February, 1851.

The 25th of the 12th Month Feb. 1851.

Gives Account of Distresses of several of our Friends Goods
 Detrained.

Yesterday after the Meeting, John Hellier, John Tilly,
 Edward Watkins the Marinal, and others, came to
Richard Sneed's House to take Distresses for two Warrants,
 the one Ten Pound, the other Seven Pound Ten Shillings,
 for which they took of Goods to the value of Twenty
 Four Pounds. From Edward Martindale for a Fine of
 Six Pound Thirteen Shillings, to the value of Thirteen
 Pounds; from Richard Vickris for a Fine of about Seven
 Pound, Goods to the value of Eighteen Pound.

The 27th of the 12th Month Feb. 1851.

Referring the Imprisoning of Forty Friends more in
 Newgate, who sat up all the last Night (except five)
 in the Kitchen and the Parlor, some lying upon the
 Boards, some under the Table where the great Dog used
 to lie, and some rolling their Heads upon the Foot-frame
 of the Table to get a little Rest. The next night they got
 in Mats, and spread them over the Throwing-Room,
 and some in Hammocks over them; so that they lay on
 Heaps, and in the day time they put up their Mats to
 make Room for the Passengers. The Prison is like the
 Exchange at full time. The number of Friends here, is
 now Eighty Six, besides Felons, Debtors, and the Keeper
 and his Family. We see nothing but our Destruction is
 aimed at, and our Lives are hazarded, and the City in-
 danger'd with Infection.

In another Account bearing the same Date is Intimated.

Ol. Meetings were this day both Disturbed. To the Morning Meeting came Job. Helliar, Ralph Oliffe Junr. John Tilly, Tho. Lugg, Job. Patrick — Hoar, Nicholas Stanfard Apothecary, William Higgins, Edward Watkins Marshal, with two or three of the Mayors and Sheriffs Officers, and began to take Names. John Helliar laid, come all ye Tinkers, Coblers, Weavers, Pinmakers, Taylers, Rabscallions and Totterdevallions, that I may take your Names. Barbara Bladon was Committed by John Helliar to Bridewell, for refusing to give her Name to them that knew it: They sent Twelve to Bridewell for continuing Meeting in the Street. In the Afternoon, together with the aforesaid Officers came Captain Arundel, Nathaniel Powell, Robert Blinkom, Thomas Dyer, George Harrwell: and sent Thirty of the men to Bridewell: Two were dismissed in the Evening, the other Fourty Committed by Alderman Oliffe and sent to Newgate about Ten at Night. These Fourty were sent for the next day to Sessions, and from thence remanded to Prison, for not Ingaging to Traverse the Indictment, which was so great a Charge (for many of them being Poor) to bear. A Bill of Indictment was found against Evans and Dole on the Statute of Pre-

**The Woful Cry of many Poor and Oppressed Prisoners
in the Nasty Goal of Newgate in Bristol and against
the Hard-heartedness, Oppression and Cruelty of
the Gaoler; once more Presented to Sir Thomas
Earl Mayor, and the rest of the Justices of this City.**

The said Prisoners do hereby declare the Truth of their
Case as followeth: After the said Prison was suffi-
ciently filled with above Fourscore Prisoners of all sorts,
besides

besides the Gaoler and his Family, whereof being between
 Forty and Fifty of us the People called Quakers, for
 no other Cause, our Serving and Worshipping the Lord
 our God, who were murthered us thronged together in two
 Rooms filled with Beds, viz. Nine in one, and Seven in
 the other, many poor men being thus strangled,
 desired admittance into "Traytors Warreng" being that
 Appartement of the Prison, that hath been Antiently appro-
 priated as free to the Kings Prisoners, and never till of
 late (as we know of) viz. (since the present Gaolers Time)
 denied to the People called Quakers, when desired; and
 though there were not above Seven or Eight Debtors
 Lodged in that Room, which is large, yet could not the
 Kings Prisoners be admitted, the Gaoler suffering the said
 Debtors to keep them out, on purpose (as we conceive)
 to make a Prey of a parcel of Poor Hand-craftsmen, who
 have nothing to maintain them and their Families, but
 their dayly Labour, at the poor rate they are now, by
 means of their Imprisonment reduced to, for want of
 Competency of Room for work, ~~and~~ ^{and} to have
 The consideration hereof nothing moving the Gaoler
 to Compassion, but rather beholding us as a People de-
 signed for destruction, managed himself as one resolved
 to have no small part of the Prey, whiles waging,
 for he continued our Friends thus trait, refusing them any
 better Accommodation, unless they would promise him 5 d.
 per Night, to Lodge in the great Room, or Twenty One
 Shilling per Week for the Room, and bring their own
 Beds in, and Lodge there; though the said Room hath
 for this long time been supplied with no more than, some-
 times, Ten and sometimes Four, Debdors, And this is the
 said Room the Gaoler hath so much talked of, as to
 pole our Complaint, and these are the terms which he pro-
 mised before you, upon our last Application, should be
 Reasonable, which we submit to your Judgements; be-
 lieving his exacting such Rates, is utterly contrary to a
~~just~~ ^{and} law, and a ~~just~~ ^{and} reasonable, and a Twenty
 shillings a week, and consequently confines your Autho-
 rity for regulating such Abuses.

But

but besides all this, they being very poor Men that were thus concerned, could not engage in so great a Charge, which in a little time would increase to such a Sum, as they were never likely to be of Ability to pay, and the consequence if they should be Discharged of their present Imprisonment, would be to make themselves Prisoners for Debt so long as they Lived.

Notwithstanding the Goal was thus Thronged, Last Friday Day of the Week, being the Twenty sixth instant, Fourty men more of the said People, were taken from their Meetings, where they were Peaceably Assembled to Worship God; their Meetings made a Riot, and they [came to Bridewell], and thence Committed to Newgate, being near about the Tenth Hour of the Night, before the greater part of them were brought in; which considered, together with the fullness of the Goal before, it will not be difficult to imagine how destitute they were of Accommodation for Rest, most being forced to Sit up in the Kitchen and Parlour all Night; the next day the said Fourty men were sent for to Bedchairs, and there Indicted for Breach of the Peace, and though they were there ready to Answer the Law without any further Charge, they were notwithstanding Recommended to Newgate again, for want of giving Security to Traverse the Innocence, which necessarily engaged them in so great a Charge, that the most of them being very poor men and moreover uneducated, had no money to be had no bond.

When they were thus recommitted, they thought of the Conveniences they could for Rest (most of them having layd by the Night before) and that was to send for as many Bed-Mats, Ruggs and Blankets as they should need, and spread them on the Ground in the Kitchen and Parlour to lie on, but the Gaoler and his Wife were so hard-hearted, that they would not suffer the poor men to have the benefit of the Kitchen at Night, so lie down in the Kitchen which some of them had never been in before, and kept them there all Night, so that they layd on the same Bed, and upon the same Mattress, and upon the same Blankets thereto, and room to lie in, nor would suffer them to bring their Mats into the great Room to lay there, unless they

they would promise to give them 6 d. per Night each; whose Condition is most of them so mean, that they are not able to bear that Charge, for the Realists before mentioned; and being now altogether destitute of a convenienty for their Employments, whereby they maintain themselves and Families.

They being thus exposed to the Parlour and Hall which is very open and cold, they are reduced to a necessity to spread their Mats there, which they have done these two Nights, all over the Rooms, some lying under the Tables, and some upon the Tables, and some a-thwart the Room, with their Heads upon the Frame of the Table, for to procure a little Rest if possible.

It is not without regret that we are necessitated to discover this Cruelty, to the great scandal and reproach of this great City, that ever such hard-heartedness should be found therein, in any towards their Innocent and Conscientious Neighbours, and which so manifestly tends to the distruction of the Lives of so many of the Kings peaceable minded Subjects, and great danger to the Health of this City in general, which we commend to your serious consideration for Relief, that if we must be prisoners, you would appoint us a place large enough, and fit for us; and therein you will oblige your Christian and suffering Friends.

Newgate the 1st Month, 1708/9. Signed on behalf of all our Friends, James Webb junior concerned by us, Edward Dely, John Magaw, and John Tilly.

The 1st of March 1708/9.
The 1st of March 1708/9. John Tilly,
John Magaw, Edward Dely, and James Webb,
were in a Committee of the Corporation of the City of London, at
which was read and approved the following Resolution, of which
there are two Minutes. In the Afternoon of the same
day,

day at the Meeting call'd the Fryars, came J. Helliar, Captain Arundel, Hoares, a Constable, John Tilly, Thomas Lugg, R. Olliffe, R. Bunkham, with a Company of Boys, John Helliar with four Constables, driv'd themselves very rude in Words and Actions, smiting and thrusting our Friends, casting some of their Hats away. An ancient Woman Susanna York, was thrown down by one of them all along upon the Ground. Mary Harper a young Woman was roughly handled by Helliar and Tilly, and her Scarf torn off her back between them; by their shaking, taunting and hissing her against other Friends, she had been much out of order late. Hoares violently haled one Mary Page, Wife of Fra. Page, out of the Meeting to the choir, getting her Hat, she being big with Child. J. Helliar called our Women Friends, Whores, Bitches, Jades, Castrious. After they had driven Friends out before them with their Staves, they provoked the Boys to mischief, thrusting them against the Women, encouraged the Boys to take Dits and throw at them, laying Herew brave Ditt, Take it up and throw it upon them. Helliar also bid the Boys tear their Scarfs, and shew'd the Boys how they might do it by taking the one Womans Scarf and endevouring to tear it, but the Boys, though thus excited, were restrained at that time. As they were going along, John Helliar called them ugly Whores; took off an ancient Womans Hat (to Wit, Elizabeth Long) and threw it away; the second time he threw it into the Water, calling her old damned Bitch.

Note. These matters of Fact were Certified by several persons
of Credit, being Spectators, whose names are at present
omitted to prevent John Hellier and his Company from in-
vestigating the cause to tear their Clothe, and throw Dirt up-
on them. On the occasion of this Accuse.

to Valentine's Day, the 14th of the First Month called March, 1681.

Any hardships the Keeper as well as the Sheriff, and other Officers, do put upon us, during our Confinement here. Three Friends have been too apprehensive & dangerously ill. A petition has been made for them, but the Sheriff could not find no pret to go to their houses. The Law of Medina which compellance be given that which will hurt our Conscience. One Friends Wife was delivered of a Child, he sought to the Keeper to go but an hour or two to see it, yet could not be admitted. Another Friends Father lay at the point of Death, he brought to see and see him, but was denied. His Father desired that nightes yesterday, we sought for his Son to go to his Burial with a Coffet, and pay him for the same our by vno means could or be obtained; our other Friends as Devisors of the Law have this privilege. We did not get hold of the Informations of Conviction, though we have done our endeavours to do so. Two Friends and Two Lawyers have been sent to Court, but by virtue of the Law of Medina, and others their Agents, we have not been able to get any true & exact copy of the Warrants of Commitment, though we have made many efforts to do so. We are in want of a Lawyer to defend us, and we have not been able to get any.

The 10th of the First Month called March, 1681.

The Meeting at Lambeth Street, where came Alderman, Mr. Abraham Grindell, Mr. Hether, John Tilly, James, Mr. Robert Martin, Mr. Parker, John Hoare, Ralph Oliver, with a Company of Rude Boys, as is usual, they will take Names, and turned our Friends out. They standing in the Streets, they seem to have them away by force. An ancient Man Thomas Lefty, not going so soon as they would have him. John Hether delivered him to the Boys to have him to dridewell, who abused him.

him exceedingly, throwing him downe nine or four times
in the Ditch. On occasion of Thomas Latry meaning to go
along with the Boyes, John Hellier told him, they were
the King's Officers. In the Afternoon of the same day
at the Meeting at the Priory (so called) came most of the
Moredale Officers, with a rude Company of Boyes, took
Fouenant ^{and} did turn them out, behavynge them selves
Rude and Abusive. John Hellier in particular called the
Women Friends Whores, and scurallour of vice in the
Meeting-houle, before they turn'd the rest out. Dorcas
Dole, wife of John Dole (which they first secured be-
cause the Boyes laid the Preach'd before they came) after
she had beene in the Meeting-houle sometime, she went to
Prayer, at which they went into her, leaving her alone till
she had done, only behavynge them selves scolling, and
now and then made a great noise. Captain Armet at his
coming forth, speaking false and uncomely words about
her Preaching. John Dole her Husband reproved him,
at which the said Armet was so exceedingly enraged that
he took his Hat off, and threw it away, preparinge to beat
him, and said, John thou art a knave, and thou art
a knave, and that he would have the knave out
of many other wicked and impudent Exactions. Soon
after John Hellier struck Elizabeth Lang in the Face
twice, but two Women, viz. Alice, wife to Thomas Kill, and
Jane, the wife of David James were riding, received the
strokes, one whereof lay on the Face of Alice Kill, did
her much harm. The said John Hellier did thrust his
Cane at the Throat of the said John Dole, and at one of
his Throats, rayched his Throat, the thrust whereof he
avoided by turninge backward. John Hellier did took off
his Hat again, and threw it away, and since he hath not
seen it, but is lost for ought he knows. At this Meeting
some Women, in particular Elizabeth Lang, and Eliza-
beth Evans were very roughly treated, thrust, and smacked
on their Arms by John Hellier. And his own friends wait-
ing in the outward Court, where they had been brought by
the Officers, and standing to see what became of the rest of
the Boyes. The Boyes behavynge them selves very Rude
and Abusive to the Women, hurling stonye stones at
ano-

smoother, and purchasing one or two for back, with their P.M.s
Thomas, and Comptable, handling over 2000 V.S. dollars
worth of work, and saving the firm over 1000 dollars, and more
of this stock would make them many of dollars better. And
when he was communicating about 1500 V.S. he was holding
in what they should do, and then they got a beginning. The
late Thomas was at the Boxes on 116th and Broadway, asking
about 1500 V.S. for the Dime Box in Standard, his stock
which several days back up Dime and Cents, and the
piling and piling them exceedingly. The next day he
signed. Dime and Cents was first to break well, and the
other two followed him, but in the Morning they were
conquered, which means all Night, and were breaking
down, and the Magillards, Duhme, and the
Faulkner company, who had a good deal of

The value of Goods sent by Distress, with Money, exceeding the Fine, the rest of the sum called Interest.

7. W. H. Forrester of 51 Main Street and
one son

John M. Nor. For a Fine of 9/- & the value of	15	1
A. M. M. For a Fine of 10/- & the value of	22	0
R. Sherr. For a Fine of 9/- 10/- the value of	17	00
R. Sherr. At another time for 17/- 10/-	17	00
R. Elliott For a Fine of 5/- 10/- the value of	15	00
F. Lowe For a Fine of 7/- 10/- the fine con-	17	00

C. Hartford. For 74, is the value of 100000 *for 77, is the value of* 100000

For the value of π use 3.14159 . For the value of $\sqrt{2}$ use 1.41421 .

That is, part of the difference of the two values is due to the fact that the two mountains, Hunter and Adams, have different elevations. By this the executive says that the Old Man is

716

Fig. 17. Salt bottle mark of the J.H. Minton, 1684, M. 112, 17

of the Littleton City of

Herif Knight's Complices Glory and Insult highly in his pretended Encouragement (since his being Kinghood) Threatening us (specially John Tilly and of late Thomas Goffe) that we shall have a Troop of Horse and a Company of Foot, down here to break the Meetings.

The reign of the Spanish Monarchs.

On the Friends coming up from the Meeting near Newgate, met the said Sheriff, he told our Women Friends (for his first Salute) how many times they were at meetings, he would not hear of it, and send them in their Passions to G. L. Thus threatening them, he said, we will have no ministry, and that they withdraw. As he was going into the Prison, they manifested themselves willing to enter also; but he told them, They would not until they came by Authority. Meaning to be sent either all in. He was told that a Friend of ours was Speaking or Praying in Prison upon which he commanded to Fine the Center Twenty Pounds, and said they would have all the Quakers Confin'd in their own Rooms, until 12th mo 17th day.

IT

To Sir Thomas Earl Mayor, and the rest
of the Justices of the City of Bristol

W^e whose Names are hereunto Subscribed, in the
Name of our Conscience towards God, do spread before you
our Lawful Magistrates, by whom we are here Com-
mitted, our Just Complaints of some late Injuries, and
Acts of Violence most illegally and Arbitrarily (as we
conceive) Committed against us, as followeth.

Yester day about 11. At noon, we being peaceably Met
and Assembled together in your Prison of Newgate; for no

Act^s the
25, 25.
22.
Tim. 1, 2.
8.
Heb. 10
25.

and in the said Room, we being peaceably Met and Assembled together in the Office of Christ Jesus
the Standard and Practice of his Disciples, the primitive
Christianity, and wherewith we were informed Serious and Ge-
neral, all together in one Room by our selves and no other
Person present with us. Sheriff Knight, John Hellier, Ed-
ward Erbury, George Hellier, and Isaac Drury the Con-
stable into our said Room, called the Chapel-Chamber,
whereof belonging to many of us the Ladey, berew, and
ministry to the Crown^s Law, which allow as many (and
more) than be of one Household and Family, to so
meet together to Worship God without Disturbance.
The said Sheriff Knight, and John Hellier, and Isaac Drury
and the Keeper soon after they entered, refusing to hear
any Apology or defense for our so Meeting, began to a-
sault and Protest minister to Philip Hale, and others, to cut
of our said Room, missing one whereabout in which Action
Sheriff Knight and John Hellier were so Furious, that the
Sheriff prodded, If we would not depart, he would put
Jesus upon us, and John Hellier pulled off Edward Erbury's
hat and threw it away, and made several Offers to punch
the Joint of his Cane in his Face, altogether unbecoming
the Office of a Constable.

The

The Sheriff commanded the Reeve to take Roger Hollard and Ironhim, and put him in the Pit, on which the said Roger Hollard was immediately cast down into the Washouse, the place where the Condemned Fellows used to be kept; and there he was detained for several Hours, it being every No^t some place.

Then John Barnes speaking some words to them concerning their Rude and Unchristian Proceedings, John Hellier came and took him by the Arms, saying, Is not this Fellow fit to be Ironed; moreover he said, The Gallows is fit for you. Thus they went on with their Abuses, both in Words and Actions, until they had put most of the rest of the Room, behaving themselves in like manner, who of course were set against every Appearance of Good.

The Reason of this our Complaint, is, because we have, that the Design of these Actions are directed against our Lives, through the Intercourse of some, that this Clause and Notional Government, for the safety of your Country, which we are the more commended for, for that the Safety and Immunity are amanuially accounted for, now, now, now, we are more conscious to our selves to have done every thing worthy of these Bonds; Let it so be, the Crimes and the Charge be supposed, as they are, as many words import, Less parts of which are to be accounted for, according to Law, and not less than is made you have arbitrarily abus'd in Prison, and for as much as we are Confin'd to this place, by your Authority, and that though the Actions are committed with the said Person, the Prisoner, yet this Prisoner has no Power to regulate the Author, and the Author of this point, God, we hope you will interpose, because we are much Injuries as there, for the summe, in so doing you will maintain the Honour, of the Government of this great City, and by doing Justice, Answer the Will of God, in all Conscience, which is the desire of your Christian and Suffering Friends.

Now, to the next point, which is, to know what of these two Persons no summe Newgate the 1st of May, 1645, and what of these two Persons was signed by the

22. May, 1645, and what of these two Persons was signed by the

Severity of the said

Prisoners.

POST.

The following communication is received from Mr. John Holt,
of Newgate, the 3d of the 1st Month, 1792.

POSTSCRIPT

Enclosed are two small gratuities, 3rd which will be
sent to Newgate the 3d of the 1st Month, 1792.

The above Communication was intended to have been delivered
in according time, but since which the Office of our
Postmaster has been enlarged, and we are at present
in the Post Office, 24th inst in June, awaiting our Letters, a new
one is now to be sent.

On the 1st of June, I had the pleasure of being by the Order of the Sheriff
presented to the Friends of Our Friends, who were
held in the County Gaol in the Committee Room.

On the 2nd of June, I had the pleasure of being present at the Committee
Room, when the Friends of Our Friends were admitted
to the County Gaol.

On the 3rd of June, I had the pleasure of being present at the Committee
Room, when the Friends of Our Friends were admitted
to the County Gaol.

On the 4th of June, I had the pleasure of being present at the Committee
Room, when the Friends of Our Friends were admitted
to the County Gaol.

Note.

On the 5th of June, I had the pleasure of being present at the Committee
Room, when the Friends of Our Friends were admitted
to the County Gaol.

On the 6th of June, I had the pleasure of being present at the Committee
Room, when the Friends of Our Friends were admitted
to the County Gaol.

On the 7th of June, I had the pleasure of being present at the Committee
Room, when the Friends of Our Friends were admitted
to the County Gaol.

Note. To you, down into the Wellhouse, which is a Dungeon-
like

Note.

The next and last but two of which we have said and shal
 WE whose Names are hereunto subscribed, having
 by a due Statute of the said Councell Complainants of the
 People called Quakers to Sir Thomas Bay Mayor, and the
 rest of the Justices of Peace of this City, about
 the Noyfornel and helnes of the Greate Newgate in the
 said City, touching the suffocating and endangering of
 their Lives for want of convenient roome in the said gaol
 And because desirous to examine into, and view the
 said Gaol, we were willing to accompany Richard Lane Esq;
 one of the Sheriffs for this City and County, in view the
 same, and upon the Examination of the whole condi-
 tione of the said Gaol, that the said Gaol is very Noyfornel in
 respect of the want of convenient Roome, and therefore that
 there are now a number of Prisoners, as we now had
 knowledge, One hundred and five male Prisoners,
 and one hundred and his Family, Eighty five
 female Prisoners, and people called Quakers, who are through
 the want of convenient Roome in the said Gaol, unseasonably throwed into
 the said Gaol, and the said Roome in the said Gaol, is soe longing
 (as we have observed) with Four, Five, Six, Seven, and
 Eighteene people in a Roome, besides divers very little
 Roome for the use of a Bed, and notwithstanding
 all this we find that many of these People are necessitated
 to sleep upon Ground, in the open Roome, where no Bed-
 roome is to be had, and卧ing their Mats on the
 Ground, and in that miserable rate, that it was a
 common saying, twelvemen a thwart the Roome, Some
 under, Some over, Some being at Cuncle, where the Dogs were
 kept, and some upon the Table, and some in the Roome
 under the Table, which insuolitely endangereth their Lives.
 And as the weather increaseth in Heat, it may occasion In-
 serious Diffusions to the endangering the Health, not
 only of the said Prisoners, but also of the many Inhabi-
 tants of this great City. The truth of which we shall be
 ready to Certifie upon Oath, if occasion shall be. In
 witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our
 names this Third Day of March, in the Four and
 fourteene year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord
 Charles, by the Grace of God of England, Scotland,
 France

France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c.
Annoq, Dom. 1681.

Simon Hurle, John Dulestone,
William Webber, John Cosly,
John Blisett, Michael Pope,
Richard Codrington, Joseph Finch,
Thomas Saunders.

Civitas BRISTOL.

WE whose Names are hereto subscribed, being
publickly known Physicians and Inhabitants of the
said City, having heard of the frequent Complaints of the
People called Quakers to the Magistrates of this City Con-
cerning the straitnes and noisomenes of the Goal of Newgate,
into which great numbers of the said People have been and
are thronged together in a miserable manner, and we re-
senting their condition with compassion; and considering
of what dangerous consequence such their close Confin-
ement may be of, were removed (upon a full Examination
of the Truth thereof) to Certifie that the said Goal is very
full and noisome; and that the said Prisoners are destitute
of Room for rest, which hath a ready tendency (as the
Season increases in Heat) to the destroying and suffocating
of them; and in all likelihood to breed infections Dis-
tempers, to the endangering of the Lives not only of the
said Prisoners, but of the many Inhabitants of this great
and populous City. **Witness** our Hands this Five and
Twentieth day of March, Anno Regni Regis Caroli Secun-
di anno Anglia, &c. Tricesimo Quarto Anno Dom: 1682.

John Griffith, **William Turgis,** **J. Chauncy,**
T. Bourne, **Alcock** & **Co.** **Bordes**

WITNESSING AND
DOCTOR DOLES' ABUSE BY RALPH OLIFFE.

How I was abused by Ralph Oliffe and his Company, viz.
Edm. Sommers, and a dirty boy called Pugg, that he
called about him the 2d day of the 2d Month, 1682, be-
ing the First day of the Week (commonly called Sunday.)

AFTER my Name was took, and I put out of the Meeting,
some Friends that been speaking together, who then
was that Thomas Lugg, threatened to be revenged of, and
cost him an hundred pounds to make his punishment,
who it was impossible still, that the occasion of my being out,
told them, howe that he took about Oliffe, to Ralph Oliffe,
clinging to me and calling me a liar, and said the Oliffe was
true, and that he spoke falsehood, and he sent me away in
a great rage, brand and all, that I had ~~scolded~~ him, that he
wanted to have had only the scolded, which I did not,
for I knowe that none of our Friends that Thomas Lugg and
John Tally by Name, had scolded F. — He had me the
reynold and holling along, faster than I could well go, yet
leaving me alone to go with him till I came to the end of
Bridewell, and leaving him in such a rage for that as I did
not leave him behind him, where he was going with me, he
said, No Friends what a no good thing he was any Friends,
and you being Constrained by the Sheriff, who was at the
Meeting, I suffered to go with him till I had seen the Mayor,
or a sufficient Person.

Then he called Company to afflict him, and one pulled
by one Arm, and another by another; and they pulled
me asif they would have pulled me in pieces; and punch-
ed me in the back, and dragged me along part of the
way, and used me very hardly when they had brought me
to Bridewell, they said, They thought they did God good Ser-
vice if they threw me over the Bridge into the Water; and
slew me up, and made offer to do it.

HAR-

Hannah Jordan, Elizabeth Douty, and Elizabeth Har-
ford offered to Bail me, but he refused, and said, He had
as much power to put members as the Mayor.

In visiting him to advise him Dorcas Dole. **T**
 he told me to advise him to
 his friends in the old House to
 advise him to do so. He had no power to do so but
 advised him to do so. He had no power to do so but

The 8th. of the 2d. Month 1682. He had no power to do so but
the old House had no power to do so but

The Sheriff Knight talks of his Orders and Authority,
 when he is about such abusive and Inhumane
 work. He continues the Friend down in the West-
House (called the Pit for condemned Felons) day and
 night, not suffering him the benefit allowed the Felons
 who come up by day. The Sheriff refusing to deliver
 him thence unless he will ask him forgiveness, to whom
 he did not the least wrong either in word or action. The
 words he spoke to Friends (at which the Sheriff was thus
 wroth) were only thus, *wiz. Friends, keep your Places.*
 The Sheriff to Extemuate his Guilt, falsely Represents the
 matter, as though the Friend Repented him; and that he
 supposed he would have Collared him, though he did not so
 much as stretch forth a hand, only stood pretty stiff, being
 unwilling to be haled away. [And what had the Sheriff to
 do to hale and abuse Prisoners when they are Peaceable in
 Goal: What other than a bold Impious and Arbitrary

Act was it? He had no power to do so but the old House had

no power to do so but the old House had no power to do so but

The 10th of the Second Month called April, 1682. He had no power to do so but

X Friday Morning the Sheriff and Constables sent six
 Friends more to Newgate, and in the Evening they
 were sent before Alderman Oliffe, the Sheriff and Fam-
 ildred, and were Committed by the Alderman, on pre-
 cence of a Breach of the Peace, when no such thing in
 reality could be proved against them.

The 15th of the Second Month, 1682.

TH E Repeated Severities, or (more properly called) Insolent abuses of our Sheriff *Knight* —
It's observable by most, That the obtaining an Order to Revive the Precedent, for enlarging of the Goal, hath greatly heightened him, in so much that he is grown the more imperious upon it. And in a Language more suitable to a Justice of Peace than a Sheriff, menacing us also with his *Power*, and how he will dispose of us (as the Towers noon it). The sufferings of our Friends are increased: the number of the Prisoners daily augmented; and some or other of them alwaies *Sick* and *Indisposed*: so that if a speedy ease do not come by the discharge of some next Sessions, in all probability 'twill be a very heavy Prison, and endanger the lives of many of the Prisoners. — Sheriff *Knight's* zeal, in endeavouring to eagerly to stop the Fifth Order, and *procure* a *Second*, demonstrates the design he had to straiten the Prisoners. And his behaviour since, makes it apparent, how lightly he values the Lives of his Neighbours.

Besides the Bitter Complaints from *1590*, there are added *25* on *1590*, and *15* on *1591*, and *15* on *1592*, and *15* on *1593*, and *15* on *1594*, and *15* on *1595*, and *15* on *1596*, and *15* on *1597*, and *15* on *1598*, and *15* on *1599*, and *15* on *1600*, and *15* on *1601*, and *15* on *1602*, and *15* on *1603*, and *15* on *1604*, and *15* on *1605*, and *15* on *1606*, and *15* on *1607*, and *15* on *1608*.

1. That Report made by Sir John Knight Sheriff, and mentioned in the *Observator*, of Four hundred of the King's Friends being in Prison in Newgate at Bristow, in the time of the late Wars, is known to be a notorious Untruth. Sir R. C. and others being told of it, do explode it as a very great Falshood, for One hundred and forty were then in Court, and they were detained there by entreaty for want of Accommodation, which made them take up Drilling, and the next day were removed into several Houses in the City, that were *Martins*, and sent into the Castle. Thus we have from one that was a

Prisoner with them the same time and on the same Account.

2. Memorandum by the way, That our Complaints of the Straimes and Noisomnes of the Goal is also confirm'd by the Major and Aldermen of Bristol in their Report, dated March 20. 1681, in Submission to the late Order of Council for the Enlargement of the Goal: whereby the contrary Allegations and pretences of Sir John Knight's Sheriff are apparently refuted.

3. That April 16. the said Sheriff and John Hellier, &c. sent ten Women to Bridewell, using several of them hardly; the Sheriff himself violently punching and thrusting along a tender Woman with Child, and then haling her forcibly by the hands faster than she was well able to go, and sent her to Bridewell. And instead of receiving her gentle perswasion to forbear his roughnes, he farther threatened the Woman, that in a fortnights time he would make them Squeek; having nothing to alledge against them, but unjustly pretended that he knew not but they were met to Plot or Contrive to break open Prison, to get their Husbands out.

4. That so many more Prisoners are sent to Newgate, that now remains Eighty five straitly confin'd, and ten or more of them weak and sick.

5. That the Goaler's Cruelty was such, that he would not then suffer the poor men to walk up in the Leads, they wanting Conveniency within the Prison, by Reason of the Crowd.

After the Sheriff threatening to make the Women squeek in a fortnights time: and his course and rugged behaviour to-wards some of them, as before. It was very remarkable in the City of Bristol, and notoriously evident how the Persecuting Officers and Informers behaved themselves at their designd Feast and Ride Convention in our Meeting Room the day abovesaid, with their company of Fadlers (being the day and time that our Friends used to Meet there without the door关) out of their Meeting Room. And what encouragement thick lewd Friends these Persons had thereby the Sheriff's coming to disturb the Meeting, whilst they were Drinking and making them selves

Merry in the Meeting Room; who at his coming thre w
open the Meeting-houle door, caused the Fidlers to Play on
their Fidles, pretending they Meant to be Merry, and came
there to Dance, (no doubt this was a Fruit of their Riot-
ous excessive and frequent Spoil made upon their Neigh-
bours.) And they attempted to lay hold on several Young
Women Soberly met (in the Fear of God) without door.
Who being Modest and Timorous of being abused by
such a Lewd Company, held fast by the Antient Wo-
men. Upon which two of the laid Young Women,
and those Women who Rescued them, with others for
reproving the Lewdness of that Company, sent to Bride-
well (for sometime.) The manner of one Woman
Friends Reproof, was then in this wise, viz. Sheriff
Knight, *I see that though we cannot be suffered to serve God,*
these (meaning the Kinde Drunken Crew and their Fidlers)
shall be suffered to serve the Devil. Our Peaceable meet-
ings you seek to make Riot, but here ye your Rioters are now
ing and Revelling to a great Excel: (this was Pertinent
and weighty.) We shall say shewes at present of this day's
design'd Abuse and Wickednes, which the Lord (no doubt)
Providentially did make manifest, and in a great measure
Reftain: But the notorious gyrols Appearance, and ill
facc shewes, among that Irreligious Kinde Company (Who
spend much of that day in Drinking and Raving at our
Meeting houle) was so much taken notice of, and saw'd in
and about the City of Bristol, as that it will not easily
be extinguished by the Guilty, much less forgotten by others.
This Account with other aggravating Circum-
stances relating thereto, divers persons of Credit who
were Spectators can Attell, and no doubt will be ready
to evince the Verity thereto as occasion shall require
and a most opportunity admis.

Besides, much might be laid of the Unwarrantable
Reformers, Inquiry and Search their Law Iniquities, &c.
Simmers, Harry, Patrick, Call, Lee, and others, (the
Drinking Town) made the same day upon the Devastation
of a friend in this City, to the Affrightment of
these small Children in their Parents Absence, and their
false Prediction for that illegal and Suspicious Act: But
for

— We may have made it easier for the Chinese to get into the United States, but we have not made it easier for the Chinese to get into America.

Bristol 1/2 22d. of the 2d Month 1832. Newgate.

WE are here about 85. God hath been very good to us, and we well content, though we are a great Family in Britain, both we and Friends shewing exceedingly exercised by the Cruelty of those that Prosecute us. Yesterday and to day great Havock hath been made on Friends Goods, fortunes for Meeting the 1st of the Month 1681. viz.

They got into Richard Marshes House, and made for Havock; a more full Account whereof may be given. They took Goods from others of our Friends, of which we have no Account yet, nor is this Account so full as we intend. — We may have more to mention of this kind, in that we hear they intend to go to it again — They having Warrants for 400/. — Quarter-Sessions is to be next third day of the Week, by which they pretend to effect it as we hear. The Bishop is come, and all things seem preparing to tumults, but our hope is in the Lord, and we commend our Cause to him alone. — All Dear Friends Pray for us, that we may be kept Faithful to the end. These Distresses are taken for a Meeting, whereat was no Preaching or Praying that they pretend to; nor was any then, that we can call to mind.

Bristol the 29th. of the 2d. Month called
April, 1682.

An Account of the manner of Proceedings at the late Sessions for the City and County of Bristol, which began the 25th of the 2d. Month 1682.

The first day of the Sessions was spent in setting the Court, calling over Names of such as were out of Recognizance and such like Bonds, and preparing business. The second day some Appeals and other Business of the Professors came on; amidst which *Erasmus Dale* was called forth, and was prevailed upon (in the Declaration of Allegiance contain'd in the Oath) to say after the Clerk, saying some words which he did not like, and saying others in their place, as, *I Declare*, instead of *I Swear*; which the Court being willing to dispense with, suffered him to go on. In the mean time the Gaoler held his Hand to the Book; and when he had said all, put it to his

his Mouth, (a) At which the Court made a great Pshaw, For as the Oath was Reading, the Bishop (as it was apprehended) to Salve the Objection made against his saying, *I declare, instead of, I swear*, told the Court, *That alter'd it not from being an Oath*, (b). This done, they gloried, as having obtained a Conquest; but Commended and Encouraged him. The News of this we expect next Week to the Nation in the Grand Jury Presentment for this City; wherein, if I mistake not, they lay down the good Succ^s is of their Endeavours with him, to be an Encouragement for the Procedure with others.

(a) That seems to be a force put upon the Prisoner by the Goaler, and not the Prisoner's voluntary Act, nor an Act of Conscience for 't was not a Judicial Act, no more than the holding his Hand on the Book needful, if the Court was so moderate (as it seems they were) as to accept his taking the Declaration of Allegiance (merely as such) Instead of

Swearing. For if the Goaler meant to make his putting the Book to his Mouth, go for an Oath, 't is very probable that was not *Erasmus* his meaning in making and taking the Declaration only, and saying *I declare, instead of I swear*. Which when done with the Goaler's Impos'd Ceremony of the Book. If *Erasmus* had told the Court in this wise, viz. *Under favour I have now taken the Declaration of Allegiance contained in the Oath; and I do sincerely mean as I have declared, and hope in God to perform it; and I accept it as your Moderation and favour, that you will please to dispense with the swearing part and those words in it that make it an Oath, and instead thereof to accept of my Honest and Naked Declaration in the Case, without Swearing*. Only I desire that the Goaler's Imposition and Force put upon me about the Book may not be taken as my Act, nor as if I Swore, or intended to Swear, thereby (for God knows I did not) 'twas his Act and meaning not mine; a force put upon me can not make me Swear from my Heart, when I intended no Swearing at all, but only to declare from my Heart as I have done, &c. This had taken off and prevented the occasion since taken. But it had been *Erasmus* his clearest way at first to have Craved leave of the Court to have given his Declaration freely, without those Impositions of the Goaler, relating to the Book, and to have omitted upon it, that his naked meaning and sense might have been more free and obvious to the Court. (b) The Bishop and *Erasmus* (it seems) were not both of one Opinion in that point; for though *Erasmus* scrupled to Swear Allegiance, yet not to declare and perform his Allegiance to the King.

Also the second day of the Sessions in the Morning, our Friends that were out upon Bonds, were Discharg'd of those Bonds, and some gave new Bonds to Answer the next Sessions, and so were dismissed. In the Afternoon all the Prisoners except the Old ones, and *John Moon*, (Who is Committed for six Months absolute) were called forth, and than'y (if not most) called to the Bar, and acquaint'd with the reason of their Commitment, and were told of their being Indicted; and to some their Indictments were Read, some pleaded Not Guilty, and others refused to plead, till they had

had ² Copy of the Indictment. This done the Favour of the Court was offered to all on Submission; some were over-persuaded

(4.) It's probable these
Book Oppos'd Prisoners
had a better Confidence
in the Justice and Moder-
ation of the Court, than
in the Justice of a Jury of
Sheriff-Court's returning
and Imprisoning us, or in
any thing made up of Arti-
ficer-men.

Without any Damage, but the Cause was the Lords, and not his, and his
Confidence was concern'd therein, and therefore could not submit to it,
but hoped the Lord would support him under what he should suffer, to
against us. The rest then present were asked the Question, and
denying Submission, in the sense (as 'twas supposed) they intended,
were put by, and some few, that so far complied, were Discharg'd;
and the rest of us sent back to Prison. But before they dismiss us,
they promised taking some of us on to a Tryal.

The next day following, the Morning before we were called, they went to Try/ on one Indictment, for about twelve of our Friends, some in and some out of Prison. We retained Council, and had it pleaded closely. At last the Council perceiving the Temper of the Jury, Demurred to the Evidence, which Demurrer was allowed. This was for a Meeting out of the House. We endeavoured hard to carry a Demurrer again to the Evidence upon another Indictment, for a Meeting in the House, but the Town-Clerk would not allow us, neither would he allow us a Special Verdict. Seven of the Prisoners were concerned in this Indictment, and carried by means of a Prejudiced Jury, and there was no having a better. For though our Council insisted upon Sheriff Lane's returning the Jury, Master Sheriff Knight was chief Evidence against us, yet that could not be obtained. But the Under-Sheriff Mr. Osfield was required to do it, which he did of most unwillingly (to our Disadvantage,) And so our Liberties were bereaved. Notwithstanding they appeared so Unstable for this occasion, Provision was ordered in, that they brought in a Verdict as first delivered by the Fore-man, after this manner, viz. Guilty of being at an Meeting in a House in Temple-street, and not departing on Proclamation. One of them, being questioned by the

TOMA

(41)

Town-Clark. What was his Reason for his Dissent from his Brethren ? (though no Dissent appeared.) The said person Replied: He had understood, or known for some years, that the People called Quakers, had met upon a Religious Account in that House, and had understood that we used sometimes to have Silent Meetings for Worship, and he believed this so. - When this Verdict was brought, the Prisoners said, it was a Special Verdict, and that it was the Truth of the matter, and all that was proved against us, and desired to have it Recorded: But the Town-Clark over-ruled all, and sent them in again - After a considerable time being Absent, they returned, and brought us in Guilty of the Indictment. And then the Court Fined us, one 17. one 40 s. another 40 s. and some 10 s. and some 5 s. a man. We insisted upon our Innocency, and refused to pay it, and were sent with the rest of our Friends to Prison.

In the Afternoon the Prisoners were called again, and those that were Fined, were brought to the Court also, which was unexpected. One of them who came last into the Court, the Court called for him to the Bar, and told him: That the Court did discharge him, and that the King was very Gracious and Merciful. The Prisoner did not shew himself ungrateful, but said, That he was condemned by Law, and if they would discharge him, he would take it kindly, he professed nothing but sincerity to God in his Actions, and to walk Inoffensively towards God and Man, as much as lay in his Power: And hoped they would have also Discharged the rest that were Fined, but they did not, only proceeded to Convict and Fine others, and so sent them to Prison again.

This Morning the Mayor sent for all again, except those that were Fined, and Discharged them on Promise of their Appearance next Sessions; so there remains at present about Seventeen of our Prisoners on Account of Meetings, besides John Moon and Thomas Robertson. Thus though a large Account is given of Proceedings, yet not without Omission of some considerable Passages relating to the Tryals at present.

Tis expected Sir John Knight Sheriff, will go on with the same work again, according to his late moved Course, if the Lord will not.

Since

C V L E R T

(17)

Since the fore-going Relation, this is come to hand from
Erasmus Dole, Bristol the 20th of the 2d Month, 1682,
and shall be the last.

To Mr Thomas Earl of Warwick, and the rest of the Justices of this
City.

Being Yesterday when before you, at the Sessions in Somer-
erset, fully entered what I had to offer to the Court, thought
good by this to present it unto you.

If to acknowledge your tender regard and condescension unto
me, for so I took it, as to accept of my unsigned Declaration
of my Allegiance to the King; which by these I intend no wayes
to Extenuate, but confirm. And truly desire the Lord may be
My Preserver, Guide and Director to the end of his days, which
the Lord will to be many and blessed in this the Land of my Na-
tivity. And forasmuch as many various and false Reports hath
been spread abroad about this City and elsewhere, which hath
tended to the Remark of my self, and my Friends the People
called Quakers, touching my said Declaration, which you were
then pleased to receive, as if it had been an Oath, contrary to
my expectations, and beyond whatever I intended it; all you
are my Witnesses, I had fully given my Testimony that I could
not Swear at all, but was always ready to acknowledge my
Allegiance as fully as then I did; and then had, as now I have,
a Testimony against Swearing in my self, and hope as I have,
that rather than goe further than break Christ's Commands, who
saith, Swear not at all; willing unto you all Everlasting Happi-
ness in the way of Righteous: Can in Truth subscribe my self
your well meaning Neighbour.

Erasmus Dole,
22nd of March 1682.

New Serious Reader, Observe how this Confirms the precedent Ac-
counts of Erasmus Dole's meaning against Swearing.